

**Minutes of the
Idaho Nursery Advisory Committee Meeting
August 28, 2000
Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Boise, ID**

In Attendance:

Howard E. Hughes, Hughes Greenhouses, Post Falls, ID - Committee Chairman
Mike Hennequin, Clearwater Nursery, Bellevue, ID - Committee Member
Bill Dial, Sterling Landscape Co., Boise, ID - Committee Member
David Jenkins, Jenkins & Son Christmas Trees, Inc., Sandpoint, ID - Committee Member
Ann Bates, Idaho Nursery Association, Idaho Falls, ID – Guest
Michael E. Cooper, Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Maureen Brewer, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Introductions were made by all of the members of the committee and guests.

Agenda items to this meeting were briefly identified [Public Meeting Notice attached].

Mike Cooper suggested that the first item on the agenda, the selection of a replacement for out-going Committee Chairman, Randy Poss, be made. After a brief discussion among the committee members, Howard Hughes volunteered for the position of Committee Chairman. Bill Dial moved to select Howard Hughes as Chairman; Mike Hennequin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The committee agreed that the Committee Chairman was to act as the official point of contact and that Mike Cooper, ISDA, should take directions through this Chairperson.

Old Business:

Members reviewed the minutes of both July 8, 1999, as a refresher, and January 17, 2000 meetings. Bill Dial moved to approve the January 2000 minutes, which was then seconded by Mike Hennequin. The committee then approved the minutes of the January 17, 2000 meeting.

Other subjects included the Mid-year Grant Reports for the Year 2000. The Mid-year reports were sent to committee members prior to the meeting. Comments on each were made as follows:

1) Mr. Don Gerhardt, State Statistician, Grant #NAC/ISDA2000-3, "1999 Gross Value of Nursery Sales." The survey had been completed and published in the *2000 Idaho Agricultural Statistics Report*. He stated that this work must be contracted with the agency each year and the approximate cost would be \$1,000. Mike pointed out that if this survey is done each and every year, a better response is anticipated. The survey is done by telephone and is confidential.

Mike also stated that the dollar figures identified in this report are "Farm-Gate Sales." It was agreed upon that the contract with Mr. Don Gerhardt, USDA, Idaho Agricultural Statistical Reporting Service, will continue on an annual basis for the Farm Gate sales surveys and that we would invite Mr. Gerhardt to come to the January meeting.

Discussion followed regarding terms used for categories listed in the Nursery Sales of the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Report, such as “Greenhouse” and “House Plants & Cut Flowers.” A question was asked: “what is ‘Other Plant Material?’” Members stated that in the current Idaho Agricultural Statistics Report, “House Plants and Cut Flowers” are identified under “Other Plant Material” and wondered whether they should be excluded from this category. Also, “Other Plant Materials” includes “House Plants and Cut Flowers.” See page 61 in the report.

2) Dr. Robert R. Tripepi, Grant #NAC/ISDA2000-2, “Production of Evergreen Shrubs in Paper Sludge-Amended Media” – Looking towards the final report. The report was approved as presented.

3) Dr. Dan Barney, Grant #NAC/ISDA2000-1, “Evaluation of Corkbark and SubAlpine Fir for Their Potential as Ornamental Nursery Stock and Christmas Trees” will come up for re-funding. Motion was made to approve. The Committee determined that the project was on course and following procedures. Dave Jenkins will follow this particular project.

4) Dr. R.G. Taylor , Grant #NAC/ISDA2000-4, “Economic Impact Analysis of Horticulture Industry in Idaho.” This survey was turned over to Dr. J.D. Wulfhorst and Dr. James R. Nelson, both from the University of Idaho. There was a poor response due to the timing of the survey. According to possible respondents, the survey came at the busy time of the year, and some complained that there questions asking about sensitive and proprietary information. Another possible reason for poor response was because of the number of ineligible respondents.

Mike Hennequin volunteered to draft a letter that would be mailed out under the Advisory Committee’s signatures stressing the importance of the economic survey underway by the University of Idaho, which was designed to measure the economic impact of the green industry in Idaho. This letter would also point out that \$20,000 for this survey came from the dedicated portion of the Idaho Nursery License fee. A copy of the letter is attached.

New Business:

It was decided that ISDA would design/create the letterhead/envelope header for use by the Advisory Committee. This would help to eliminated any misconceptions about who was funding the research projects.

Farmer’s Market issues were discussed. Selling of nursery plants and the state law requiring licensing. Does the individual vendor selling at the Farmer’s Market need to be licensed or does the Farmer’s Market Association purchase the license to cover all their vendors? It was mentioned that a letter should go to ISDA, Director Takasugi’s office stating concerns surrounding the Farmer’s Market issues. Howard Hughes moved that there be a recommendation that every single seller at the Farmer’s Markets be inspected at his or her growing area operation”. Both Dave Jenkins and Bill Dial seconded this motion. All present voted in favor.

Further discussion included:

Mike Cooper stated that he would have the Minutes added to the ISDA Internet website in addition to a listing of members and a description of grants both proposed and submitted. He also volunteered to distribute any e-mail contacts of the Nursery Board Members to others.

The Idaho Public Records Law was briefly discussed and the concern about privacy of the information in the grant project, and the possibility of the grant applicant being denied or not being able to publish research results because too much information might be released prior to the professional recognition (magazine write-ups, etc.).

Howard Hughes also made the comment that the Advisory Committee meeting is open, public, and there is nothing confidential.

The next topic of discussion was Pre-Proposals and how much money was available to be granted. Mike Cooper stated that there is currently \$58,266 available and that the ISDA is currently working towards having the committee getting their own spending authority. This is handled through the legislative process.

2001 Pre-Proposals:

- 1) "Evaluating a Gravel Bed System to Produce Conifer Seedling for Fall Transplanting"- Approved.
- 2) "Improving Gene Transfer Techniques for Rhododendron" - Not Approved. Reasons given for disapproval were: Bill Dial – Because plants must be suitable to the region in which they are transferred; Mike Hennequin – It doesn't work in his area; and Howard Hughes – Feels that not enough money is available to fund a project to make rhododendron a viable plant crop for Idaho.
- 3) "Integrated Disease Management of Rhizoctonia in Rooting-Mist beds" – Approved.
- 4) "Evaluation of Corkbark and SubAlpine Fir for Their Potential as Ornamental Nursery Stock and Christmas Trees," request for continued funding – Approved.

The issue of when to mail out the pre-proposals was discussed. The states of Oregon and Washington mail out pre-proposals in September and October. The biggest concern is "when" to get them to the INA Research Committee (January 1?). Bill Dial suggested they be mailed out in the Spring. Howard Hughes commented that "it is too cumbersome an application, too much work for the amount of money they get."

Ann Bates mentioned that it may be possible to send out the pre-proposal requests at different times of the year; perhaps instead of June 1, use April 1. If the April 1 date is used, it may help to get more proposals.

Howard Hughes said he would like to see that the Committee get rid of the "Pre" and "Post" proposals, until the Committee is inundated with proposals. Then at the Advisory Board meeting, the proposals can be "Passed" or "Rejected."

Mike Cooper: November 15th all full proposals received; send copies to INA and Committee to review in January. The ISDA can put out a notice that we need grant proposal requests that would benefit the industry.

It was decided that the time frame for pre-proposals will be up for discussion in January.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ADDENDUM:

The three approved pre-proposals were sent letters on September 26, 2000, stating that the Advisory Committee has accepted their pre-proposal and requested that a full proposal and/or additional information must be received by December 1. The Committee is to review the full proposal and make a decision regarding final approval during its January 2001 meeting.

The pre-proposal that was not accepted was also sent a letter stating the reason for denial.